

Point Three



The Toc H magazine
August 1982 10p



I WAS A STRANGER...

(pages 8-9)

Congratulations

Our warmest congratulations to Edith Hammond of Melton Mowbray (Leics) Women's Branch and to Horace Wilfred Ransom of Mill Hill (London) Men's Branch on their appointments as MBE in The Queen's Birthday Honours List. Also to 'Dusty' Rhodes of Bognor for his richly deserved appointment as an Honorary Member of the National Association of Prison Visitors.



Edith Hammond's award is in recognition of her wide ranging charity work. She is Pilot (and former Chairman) of her Toc H Branch, Chairman of the Melton League of Hospital Friends and President of the local branch of the Arthritic Research Council. Her husband is also an active Toc H member and *'the Hammond name is a household word in Melton Mowbray in the field of helping and caring for others...'*

Harry Mills writes to tell us that Wilf Ransom's award was for 'Services to the Mill Hill Toc H Music Club', which, as Hon Sec he had organised for 28 years. The news was announced by the Mill Hill Branch Chairman to a capacity audience at a Club Concert the same evening, when Murray Pereiha was giving a piano recital. The Club's series started with a charity concert to raise money for what was then their very active film unit. The concerts — always using the services of the greatest professional artistes of the day — took off and moved progressively into larger concert halls until they reached their present home, the splendidly appointed Civic Hall at Borehamwood. The full story of this remarkable development was told in the April 1979 issue of *Point Three* (some copies are still available from Wendover, price 10p + postage). The account of their 265 concerts reads like a list of the great musicians of our time — Dame Janet Baker, Arthur Rubinstein, James Galway, Daniel Barenboim, Pinchas Zukerman, Jacqueline du Pre, Vladimir Ashkenazy,

the Amadeus String Quartet, the London Mozart Players, and many, many more. (By the way, the Film Unit, for which Wilf started the whole proceedings, still flourishes after 30 years!)

We have just heard from Bognor Regis Joint Branch that Alfred John ('Dusty') Rhodes, a long standing member, has been appointed an Honorary Member of the National Association of Prison Visitors, in recognition of his loyal work and devoted service over a period exceeding 20 years. As a member of Toc H, he has made regular weekly visits to Ford Prison to chat with and befriend inmates and to offer help and advice, which often continued after their discharge. 'Dusty' has received a certificate marking his appointment, signed by the Home Secretary, Mr William Whitelaw, and this will be treasured by him. Recognition of this long and selfless service is richly deserved, the more so because, having undertaken this service, he has been unable to attend his Branch meetings owing to the fact that prison visiting falls on the same night. This sort of thing is perhaps not unusual in Toc H, but Bognor Regis members are delighted that 'Dusty's' efforts have been appreciated in this manner.

News from Cheltenham



In May last, some 50 members and friends of Cheltenham and Gloucester Districts met at the Sue Ryder Home at Leckhampton Court. They were there to present a garden seat and a cheque in memory of Lilian and Len ('Jacko') Jackson, former members of Cheltenham Branch. Following the dedication service and the presentation, the party was given a conducted tour of this fine 14th century manor house, now the home of so much devotion and loving care.

Since 1977, many people have been working hard on the building and grounds. Each year since then, Toc H projects parties have contributed: at the time of writing, one such party is clearing the lake. If you want to join some of this work, contact Tina Farmer, 4 Malvern Place, Cheltenham (Tel: Cheltenham 517923). Excellent camping sites are available.

Round and about

with Scott Shaw

'Getting to know you' is worth £600

Ilminster men — all seven of them — spent £634 on projects and gifts to other local organisations during the past year. Of course, it didn't come out of their own pockets — they raised it, or had it donated to them because local people appreciate the work they are doing, both corporately and individually. In a good detailed report in the local paper (seven column inches), Chairman Jack Sandy is quoted as saying: *'We may be a small Branch, but we do get things done'*.

Branch Secretary Ted Newman, enclosing the report, points out that the editor is a good friend of the Branch. We're not surprised. A Branch which is always *doing* things, and takes the trouble to get to know its local newspaper is more likely to get in the news, more likely to be understood and appreciated locally and more likely to get the support of the community. Which is where we came in . . .

Hard work in Conwy pays dividends

How much effort is a job worth? I sometime feel many Toc H jobs fail because we don't put our whole heart into them. But Barry Johns of Conwy Branch is a good example of what can be achieved with hard work. In April, the Branch, helped by its friends, had a flag week and raised £366. Nearly £100 of this was raised by Barry alone, working from 10.30am to 8pm.

Conwy used this money for their local work. Up to the end of March, they spent £340 in this way, as well as sending £155 to the family purse (increased to £198 by tax recovered from deeds of covenant). Have you any stories about hard work producing outstanding results?

Cutting undergrowth, building bridges

Toc H seems to be getting involved in railways. We had items in the May and June issues but somehow we missed out in July! Now we're back to normal with an item about the Norchard Steam Centre in Gloucestershire!

Project 14, run by the West Midlands and South Wales Region, involved cutting back undergrowth on the railway embankment which runs out of the steam centre, on the edge of the

Forest of Dean close to the banks of the Severn.

Volunteers stayed in a preserved 30 year old sleeping coach which had some of the berths removed to provide a kitchen and dining area.

Enclosing a good report on the project from the Gloucestershire Citizen our correspondent Evan Allayne says *'the Gloucester Branch would like the young people to know how they were remembered, prayed for and appreciated'*. Obviously barriers, as well as, undergrowth, were removed!

Help from 12 Branches 'over the border'

Southdown ran a holiday for 21 physically handicapped people — and a lot of the help came from 12 Branches outside the District, who provided guests, volunteers and transport. The project leader and two of her six volunteers had nursing qualifications and both they and the hotel staff worked hard to give the guests a great week. Our correspondent Cecil Wakely says that letters of thanks from the guests *'... overflow with warm appreciation for the friendship and personal care they met everywhere'*. (Our apologies for the mistake in the caption for the picture of this event in the July issue — how many of you spotted it?)

Our German shop

The value of the Toc H Services' Club in Germany was underlined recently when its new Wolfenbuttel premises was opened (see picture in our June issue). For ten years, the club operated in (to quote the army newspaper 'Sixth Sense') 'small and dingy premises'. But now, it has something much more spacious and cheerful, managed by Bob and Elsie Petyon-Bruhl, who have been in charge for the past eight years and retired at the end of June. There was a nice extra touch — the opening ceremony was marked by the Alamein Band playing the march 'Toc H'.

The Regions and HQ are important but . . .

'Toc H only becomes real at Branch level,' said Adrian Dudman, speaking recently at the New Forest District gathering. In a society which has seen so

many changes, not all for good, in recent years, he stressed the importance of our faith in the Movement.

'How much do we do for each other?' He went on to say that caring and sharing were high priorities, but it was loving which came first. These enabled us to share our talents and to give commitment and dedication, helping us to attain the fourth point 'The Kingdom of God'. Humour, fun and laughter were infectious and essential ingredients of a happy life along with dedicated prayer. He said many people underrate the power of prayer and as a result their lives are the poorer. (Our thanks to our correspondent Reg Collins for this report).

A golden opportunity with the young

An extension exercise involving visits to local comprehensive schools and colleges by Wrexham Joint Branch has produced promising results, reports our correspondent Wyn Roberts. Contacts were made with students at the Aston College on their final year in a social care course and at least 30 expressed interest in Toc H projects, including the Winant/Clayton exchange scheme.

The Branch, which celebrated its golden jubilee in May also manned an exhibition at the church house during the week of the exercise. Says Wyn: *'The Branch propose consolidating the gains which they made during the week by maintaining close contact with the students'*.

And briefly . . .

. . . 3,000 jigsaw puzzles were issued by Bournemouth and Christchurch's jigsaw library during the past year . . . After initiating five new members of St Thomas, Exeter, Alice Welford gave an informal talk on Toc H and the present day . . . The fifth annual coffee morning organised by Cromer raised £269 to go towards pantomime and coach outings for local hospital patients . . .

They're a funny lot at HQ

. . . and the Biggleswade Chronicle said that Central Councillor Molly Miles 'entertained members with general news from headquarters'.



This picture was taken at Gravesend's fifth annual 'mini-handi'. For the full story, see 'A late Christmas at Gravesend' in June's 'Round and About' column.

Welcome

The following Branches elected new members during May and June.

- 2 — Basingstoke (j), Nailsea (w)
Saltford (j)
- 1 — Cirencester (m), Conway (m),
Ealing (j), Kettering (m),
Looe (m), Pant (j),
Sittingbourne (j),
Walton (Street) (w),
Yorkshire Area (j) Group.

A warm welcome to 15 new members.

Week of Prayer for World Peace

17 — 24 October 1982

To mark this important week when people of different religious traditions join together to pray for peace and reconciliation in all areas of life, a VIGIL will be held on

Thursday 21 October 1982

at ALISON HOUSE, Intake Lane, Cromford, Matlock, Derbyshire DE4 3RH arranged by Tom Gulliver

and

at CUDDESDON HOUSE, Cuddesdon, Oxford OX9 9HB arranged by Bob Knight.

Please come if you can, and bring friends. These Vigils are open to everyone, not just Toc H members.

We will have coffee at 10.30am, and at 11am will meet together for an introduction, and then share the time of the Vigil between us. At 3.30pm we will have a Celebration of Holy Communion. The day will finish at 4pm with tea.

The cost of lunch and refreshments will be £1.50.

If you are able to come, please let the Warden know numbers so that he can arrange catering: Alan Robson at Alison House, or David Currant at Cuddesdon House.

Overnight accommodation will be available at the Centres if required. Apply to the Warden for details.

Faith and Belief

in Christian and Buddhist traditions

A weekend of study and quiet reflection to be held at Cuddesdon House, Cuddesdon, Oxford on
19 - 21 November 1982

Speakers:

Anne Bancroft

Rev'd Marcus Braybrooke

Chairman:

Tom Gulliver

Over recent years there has been an increase in Buddhist-Christian dialogue which has led to a growth in mutual understanding. William Johnston, who has been engaged in such dialogue, wrote in 'The Inner Eye of Love' that in religious experience it is possible to distinguish between belief which is the outer word, the outer revelation, the word spoken in history and conditioned by culture, and faith which is the interior word, the word spoken to the heart, the inner revelation.

That is the basis on which during the weekend we will look at 'faith' and 'belief' in the two religious traditions. Meetings in small groups will enable us to examine differences and perhaps to gain new insights.

The bedrooms accommodate from 2-5 people so a willingness to share is necessary. The cost of the weekend will be £19. A non-returnable booking fee of £5 is required for each place booked.

All applications to: David Currant, Cuddesdon House, Cuddesdon, Nr Wheatley, Oxford OX9 9HB.

'Jesus was a good man but...'

A weekend for honest agnostics and others to examine their qualms about Christian certainties

ALISON HOUSE

26-28 November 1982

The weekend will be led by Duncan Munro and the Chairman will be David Mayhew.

The cost will be £19.

Applications and enquiries, please to:
Alan Robson, Alison House, Intake Lane, Cromford, Matlock, Derbyshire DE4 3RH. (Tel. 0629 82 (Wirksworth) 2316.)

Apologies

The Bordon Letter in our July issue contained two printing errors in the closing paragraphs. With sincere apologies to Vera Harley, we reprint here the paragraphs as they should have appeared.

— Editor

If all this is a sign that we are indeed approaching the era of the third Person of/in the Godhead, have we as Christians sufficient courage to meet this new challenge? Our task is not to attempt to convert but with love, humility and patience discover where reconciliation can be accomplished and how best we can promote the well being of all our fellow men.

Assuming that the Holy Spirit is the 'enabler', the 'go between', perhaps after all, the doctrine of the Trinity will prove not to be a stumbling block but a stepping stone.



Photo: Scott Shaw

Adrian Dudman

From the General Secretary

This month I want to say something more about the District Branch. This is meant to follow up and reinforce what Audrey Smith wrote in June's *Point Three*. ('District Membership - What is it?')

We must avoid thinking of the District Branch as some sort of 'dumping ground' on paper for people who don't fit our normal structure. If our structure - our organisation - is to serve our purposes, then it must be arranged to fit the needs of our members and friends. If we try to do it the other way round - to force them into a structure that doesn't meet their needs - we shall find ourselves in all sorts of trouble. We don't exist to serve the organisation: the organisation is there to serve us.

The District Branch can do this, if we see it as a flexible unit. Many Districts cover wide areas, ill served by very costly public transport. We have to find some way of enabling groups of members and others in these areas to meet each other and to work together. If we don't meet, we are going to be missing the main point of the whole Movement.

Up and down the country we have large numbers of members, Builders and friends who can't fit our normal pattern of Branch life - or don't wish to. Many of these share the vision and want to serve with us. The District Branch covering a wide area can be made up of local 'cell' groupings that make it possible for them to foster care for each other and to serve the community in which they live - to respond to the need for neighbourly concern right there in their own streets or villages.

The District Branch - and its local 'cells' - has a life of its own and each cell carries the full range of responsibilities enjoyed by all Branches. Thus it is most important that the District Branch has normal office holders and that the District Branch executive deals with eg fund raising and the collection and channelling of members' self assessment giving to the Family Purse.

Seen like this, the District Branch can be a most lively source of recruitment. Its cells can attract right where they live people from all age groups who are unable or unwilling to reach a normal Branch. Its members can tackle a wide range of jobs because they will include people free during the day

as well as those whose commitments take up all the daytime hours. The cell pattern makes it possible to visit and keep in touch with local Builders and friends, all of whom should have some personal link with the cell, and thus with the District Branch. If we can't care for each other, how can we care for our neighbours?

Of course, for the cell system to work, all must come together from time to time as a District family in ways that give them a real chance to meet socially and really to know each other. Audrey, in her June article, spelt out a number of ways in which this can happen. In many cases, it will be possible for a cell to build up links with a nearby Branch, as well as with the District Branch and the DEC. The more of these links the better, because they underline the fact that we are all part of one wide family.

The cell's own activities can include, for example, coffee mornings in each other's homes to help build up friendships and promote other activities. Our homes are ideal recruiting grounds for at home it is easier to relax and to 'be ourselves'.

In all our relationships with fellow members, the number one priority is that each of us should feel wanted and cared for. Again, this is easier to achieve in a very local group, though it still has to be worked at. The cell doesn't so much need a Secretary to write letters but it does

need someone of great sensitivity who responds to others in a very personal way.

The smaller and very local grouping in which everyone knows everyone else - even though they can't keep to the normal Branch pattern - can be very helpful in keeping track of members, Builders and friends who are on the move. They will know the members transferred to the District roll when a Branch has closed down and will know when members move out of the District. They can keep in touch with those moving in and let us know of those moving out. We have 'Commendation Cards' to make it easy for you to pass on that sort of information to us and you can have a supply of these if you ask us for them.

This is all very simple, even if it sounds complicated. I know that it looks unusual to those of us who have come to regard the Branch with its own executive and its regular meetings and corporate jobs as the only Toc H pattern. But we have really got to get behind the structures we have built to the realities they were designed to serve. Each of us needs to make some commitment to his nearest neighbours and to let that commitment become known. Each of us needs to carry that commitment with us wherever we go and to share it with those we meet. Where there are several of us, we need to care for and share with each other and that means keeping in touch. If we can do that by joining a regular Branch and find that suits our way of life, then that's fine. If we can't, then we must find other ways of doing it within the District Branch. The 'cell' concept is one way in which we have found this works. Don't worry about existing structures. Find the pattern that suits you and work within that - but work together and let your DEC know just what you are doing.



Mrs Joyce Bowes, Abbeyfield House Committee Chairman, accepts a handsome clock presented to Abbeyfield by Wallasey (Merseyside) Women's Branch. On the left of the picture is the Branch's oldest member - 97 year old Edith MacGregor.

Photo: Wirral Newspapers Ltd

For your diary

Leicestershire and Northants Area Day

This year Market Harborough Men's Branch are hosts for the annual area day, which is to be held on Sunday 12 September, starting at 11am. The venue will be the Welland Park Community College, Market Harborough.

The day's events will include a recital by the nationally famous Harborough Singers and, in the afternoon, an address by the Revd Edgar Wallace on 'New Horizons'.

Lunch will be provided for those who require it at a charge of £2 per person and you are asked to remit this amount and send a SAE for tickets to: Mr E J Tebbutt, 30 Highcross Street, Market Harborough, Leics LE16 9AJ. There will be an admission charge of 50p made on the day whether or not lunch is taken.

Festival of Music

(25th Year)

(Toc H Manchester Area)

Massed Bands — Fairey's and Fodens under the direction of Harry Mortimer OBE and

The Cestrian Male Voice Choir of Chester

Saturday, 9 October 1982 at 7pm

Free Trade Hall, Manchester

All enquiries please to:
Cyril H Carrier, 367 Hungerford Road,
Crewe, Cheshire CW1 1EZ



Photo: Weston Mercury

'BD' Brown (centre) — one of the founder members of Nailsea Branch — helps to show the plaque commissioned as part of the Branch's silver jubilee celebrations. To 'BD's' left are his fellow founder members, John Willoughby and Len Elverd.

IDEAS CORNER

Have you a bright idea — of your own or someone else's — that's too good to keep to yourself? Then tell us about it! Starting this month, we'll have an ideas corner that could produce something useful for your Branch. It could be anything — a new way of building good neighbourliness, a clever idea for publicity, ways of saving or making money or, like this first one, a commonsense idea for making better use of the resources we already have. So let's hear from you — just write to, or ring us here at Wendover. Your idea could help dozens of Branches and hundreds of people!

'It is a paradox that with more passenger carrying vehicles on the road than ever before, the service available to the public is the worst it has been since the internal combustion engine took over from the horse. Everywhere on the roads we see coaches and minibuses transporting particular groups — Scouts, school parties, disabled people, the old and infirm. There are Toc H buses, Rotary buses, Variety Club of Great Britain buses. Coaches take children to school, workers to factories, teams to their matches. The common factor is that they all spend most of their time stationary, empty, or going nowhere. Elderly people

wondering how to get into their nearest town to collect a prescription will not be aware of the bus half loaded with sporting youngsters, that passes their doors. Car-less teenagers might be able to get a lift in the bingo coach if they only knew about it.'

This is an extract from an editorial in the Kent and Sussex Courier, reporting the local Council's plan to examine all public transport — including that provided by voluntary organisations like Toc H.

Whether or not you own a minibus, you and other organisations in your town may sometimes need one. It might be running half empty at the moment, covering the same route as another minibus, also half empty! A Branch could do a useful public service by organising a get together of all voluntary transport owners and users to co-ordinate all future movements. With running costs rising all the time, this could make a tremendous difference to voluntary transport in your town — perhaps the difference between a project going ahead or folding up.

Note: The suggestion that we should start this column was passed to us during a Training Day in the NE Region.

— Editor

I was a stranger... by Scott Shaw

Exile is hard. The flight from danger and subsequent homesickness is bad enough, but when your own child seems to be changing into someone else, it can be heartbreaking.

A man writes of his nephew: *'He looks like an English boy now. He learns and copies English so quickly I cannot believe it. He has forgotten a lot of Vietnamese. Sometimes his mother cannot understand him and she becomes annoyed; but then she holds him and cries.'*

The mother and child were residents in a reception centre for Vietnamese refugees. For many this may come as a surprise. Most may have thought all the Vietnamese had been assimilated into our society long ago.

Sadly, this is not true. More than three years after its first refugees arrived, about 500 men, women and children are waiting to start life outside the wire fence of a former RAF base in south west Hampshire. True the numbers are reducing steadily and about 100 of its residents have been transferred from another centre which has now been closed. But these people will be there for some time yet — and then what?

The refugees at the Sopley reception centre for refugees are not prisoners in the physical sense. Indeed, they are

completely free to come and go as they please. They can, for example, go shopping in the village, or visit nearby towns. But they need to feel the world outside is theirs, that they can find somewhere to grow, warmed by friendship in a colder land.

The refugees certainly seem willing to learn and work. Sopley's education programme introduces them to the language and culture and in addition at least ten private language schools in Bournemouth have offered free places to the more adventurous Vietnamese students. They stay with British families in the locality, improving their English still further and developing their self reliance. Such is the good impression made at the schools, that several have offered places to more such students.

The reception centre's lively newsletter also carries reports of former residents who have found jobs — quite an achievement for people living through a recession while also trying to fit into a new way of life. In one edition it tells of residents, who have landed jobs as cafe employee, welder, mechanic and watch repair technician. One former resident now works at the London Hilton Hotel and another has completed the first stage of his studies which should eventually lead to his becoming a registered pharmacist.

Some of the stories have all the ingredients of a television play. Mr Quach Nhat Tan, an elderly man, was a fisherman in his homeland. He also turned out to be a good gardener and there were hopes of him being resettled where he could put his new skills to use but Mr Tan was moved to a flat in London's East End. Yet his talents were not wasted. A local headmistress offered him a job as school gardener. The pay is nominal but he has a little allotment of his own and he seems content, growing dahlias and chrysanthemums in one small corner of a big city.

Many youngsters have no jobs yet; but they are working to improve their chances. For example, a number of them attended a 12 week basic engineering course at Poole Engineering Industry Training Centre, learning English, welding, electronics, sheet metal work, turning and milling.

But the people at Sopley are more than a reservoir of potential labour. They are first of all people, perhaps a little bewildered, possibly hurt and apprehensive, certainly in need of reassurance and practical support.

It has come from many areas — including Toc H. Our staff member Elizabeth Bacon reports: *'Our involvement has largely been by donating a great quantity*



These 236 people are all related. The head of the family is 97 and the youngest a few weeks old. A large proportion are Roman Catholic and most of the men and women earned their living from fishing.

and wide variety of personal and household goods needed to help feed, clothe and house these desperate people. From the earliest days, our members have been unstinting in their giving. Whatever they've been asked for has been forthcoming and I've delivered many a car load of things like clothing, blankets, anoraks, football boots, sewing things and kitchen utensils. Local members have also given such items as carpets and carpet cleaners, jig saw puzzles, an electric organ, a projector, radiogram, and so on. The brother of one of our Milford members (an Associate) obtained one ton of paint from a well known paint manufacturer, some of which was used by our younger members, from the Winchester "Flintstones" and Southampton "Magpies" over a series of residential weekends which they spent redecorating part of the Education Centre.'

Elizabeth also recalls a disco run by a group of young people from the Bournemouth/Poole area who are involved with Toc H. She says: 'This was very well attended, both by teenage Vietnamese who enjoyed the dancing, once they had come to terms with the unfamiliar European "pop" rhythms, and also by a large number of very small brothers and sisters who watched, wide eyed and silent, and who were reluctant to be taken away to bed!'

Last year, one of the Southern Region projects was a touring show which ended its run at Sopley. It was a marathon – by popular demand, it was extended by encores and additional items until the exhausted performers were rescued by the deputy administrator who had to declare the show finished.

Although they seem to respond enthusiastically to any entertainment their host country offers them, they have much to give from their own culture too. For example, at the Vietnamese Festival at Battersea Park, items of Vietnamese crafts, made at Sopley, were on sale – model fishing boats, embroidery, paintings, ceramics, jewellery and traditional Vietnamese foods. Among the musicians performing was Luu Van Khiem, a singer and saxophone player who has appeared on Radio Solent, Two Counties Radio and at a multi-coloured concert at the Guildhall, Southampton. A Sopley staff member reports that the team performing the Vietnamese lion dance rehearsed so hard before the festival that everyone almost heard the drums in their sleep.

Although the refugees hold traditional celebrations like their Hobgoblin Festival in July, they also seem to have taken western celebrations to their hearts. At Christmas, more than 100 were invited into English homes and had the time of



Two young refugees adapting very quickly to the British way of life!



Lord Inverforth, Chairman of the Bank Line whose ship SS Sibonga picked up over 1,000 refugees in the summer of 1979. Lord Inverforth visited Sopley in 1981 to receive a matchstick model of the boat in which these refugees made their escape from Vietnam.

their lives; the children enjoyed pantomimes, parties and got Christmas presents, thanks to the involvement of local individuals and organisations, including the church and police.

One big English experience was the royal wedding, when everyone seemed to be glued to any available television set. The wedding was a major topic of conversation and two of the residents sent embroidered satin pillowcases and a specially designed wedding card, which was duly acknowledged.

If the refugees now feel more a part of this country, thanks to the response of English people, then some of the kindest acts have been among the simplest. Two examples that warm the heart, are the 'typically English' gestures – the outing that included a meal at the Baptist Tea Rooms in Dorchester, followed by visits to English families; or the thoughtful vicar who came with gifts of hot water bottles for the oldest residents.

The children, at an age when everything is a new adventure, have adapted quickly. These children will soon forget their homeland. For the older people memories fade more slowly and the grieving continues. Huynh Van Duc writes: 'I am sitting in my small room, looking out of the window. It is raining and dark. I feel

lonely, then the past returns to my mind ...

'On rainy days like today, I often went out to see my friends to have a chat. We went out together and joked about and played with the waves of water on the roads. We made pancakes to eat and we looked at people who were in a hurry because of the rain ... We were very happy with our parents, sisters, and our friends.

'Yet, today it was raining with the same untasty water but it did not make me happy. I wonder who took away our happiness? Who separated parents, children, husband, wife, to be a long way from each other? How long must we wait before we can go to see our family; our friends with smiles on the lips of everyone? Peace, love, happiness, please come to our people, our country.

'I close my eyes then I hear a pain in my heart ...'

These people will one day leave the reception centre and, like other refugees who have come to this country over the centuries, live among us for a long time. They will carry their pain with them. How long it lasts will, to some extent, depend on how – or if – we welcome them. We can be healers.

We will Remember...

Lack of space has compelled us to hold over some obituary notices received. We hope to include these in future issues.
— Editor

We regret to announce the death of the following members:

In January

Gladys Barradale (Leicester)

In April

John H Hawken (Middlesbrough)

In May

Alice M Elton (Llandudno Central)

Rt Rev A L E Hoskyns-Abrahall (East Lancs District)

Lily Hadfield (Cheadle Hulme)

Rose L Poole (Tonbridge)

Stuart A Turner (Looe)

Harold B Small (North Sussex District)

Phyllis Smith (RHHI)

Ernest S Smith (Lincs & South Humberside District)

In June

Edith Flinton (St John's Sevenoaks)

Rev Ivor Phillips (Corwen)

Lilian White (South West Counties)

Broads District Pilot writes: *Lilian Elphick, Central Councillor, District Secretary, and Regional Executive representative for the Broads and Lothingland Districts, formerly member of Caister Branch (1960), who died on 29 March, will be sadly missed in the Area. Her interpretation of the Toc H Compass was an example to us all. To Lilian, Toc H was a way of life and we thank God we have known and loved her. Our prayers and affections go out to her husband Len.*

'Bernard Dewi Brown ("BD") who died on 16 April was a founder member of Charmouth Toc H. During the 12 years of his membership he acted as Jobmaster and was the inspiration of the various activities of the Branch. Through his efforts regular country drives and teas for the elderly and infirm were started, and days at the seaside were organised for handicapped children and adults. His chief and abiding love was for Toc H closely followed by his great love for the cultivation of flowers and shrubs. Regular sales were held every year and from his work in greenhouse and garden large sums were raised and the total proceeds always given to Toc H work. Members of the Branch and the whole of Charmouth village and district will miss his friendship and unselfish service to the community.

Before coming to Charmouth in 1970, "BD" was a founder member of Nailsea Branch.'

PDY

Derby District Chairman writes to tell us of the shock with which they heard of the tragic death of Stan Spenser in a road accident in January. Stan was a member of West Hallam Men's Branch and served on District and Area teams. Whenever he spoke — in public or in private — men listened: he was an enthusiast, intolerant of sloppiness or half measures in all his work. For 15 years, he and his wife Vera ran with a band of dedicated helpers, the Ilkeston Mencap club. Last year, their fund raising efforts forced them to postpone their annual holiday to November but Vera died suddenly before they could go. Just 11 weeks later, Stan was knocked down in the terrible winter weather. *'We do indeed give thanks to God for the life of Stan Spenser, for the great privilege of having known him. We have lost a dear friend and Toc H has lost a tireless worker ...'*

Morgan Andrews (Cefn Coed Men's Branch) died in January at the age of 69. He was a faithful Chapel member and a wonderful Toc H worker. Morgan had served with the Chindits in WW2 and suffered a great deal from his war injuries. He is greatly missed by all the members of his Branch.

Macclesfield Joint Branch lost a much loved Chairman when Arthur Breeze died in March at the age of 69. Arthur first met Toc H during the last war and joined us in Macclesfield as soon as he was demobilised. He held Branch Office and represented Toc H on a number of local bodies over the years. Arthur was always ready to help anyone in need and he will be widely missed.

'John Draper, aged 61, of Sevenoaks Men's Branch died suddenly on 4 April. He was a member of Toc H for 23 years, and had held many offices within the Branch. After military service in the Middle East, in WW2, he returned to Sevenoaks. John, by being an old Sennockian and working in the town, knew everyone and everyone knew him, not only through Toc H, but through the Friends of Sevenoaks Hospital, and also his Golf Club. All the old folk knew him, and whenever we organised an old folks' outing or tea it was always to John that we turned for names. He will be sadly missed, not only by the Branch, but by his many friends in Sevenoaks, as well as by his wife Ruby and son Robert and family ...'

DJE

Audrey Pedlar, Chairman of Wolverhampton Women's Branch died in March. In her 30 years of membership, Audrey held almost every Branch office. Her Branch say that *'Her welcoming smile and unfailing good humour will be sadly missed by Branch and District.'*

'John Hawken (Middlesbrough Branch) died suddenly on 29 April. Some 25 to 30 years ago, the then Acklam Branch needed the help of a bricklayer; John offered his services and brought with him his wife, Dora, who acted as his labourer. John stayed and became a member of Toc H, as did his wife. John was a man of many talents. First and foremost a worker, he became an unlikely Jobmaster who practised his faith in Toc H, majoring in the second point of our compass — Service. If he ever rejected a call for help, it was because he could not fit it into his 24 hour day. To love his neighbour and his God, were the signposts of his life and happy in his family life, nothing stopped his service to and for others. To God's care and protection he has gone, but he leaves us a challenge to accept and maintain his standard of responsibility for and to our neighbours.'

WAB

Cleveland District Branch write: 'His funeral service was an indication of the affection and esteem held for Wilf Defty who died on 5 May after a severe illness bravely borne. He was a staunch and modest member of North Ormesby Branch from 1955-1980, and then of our District Branch. He specialised in accident prevention, road safety, hospital library and visiting and all manner of transportation of members and friends for various events and jobs. Wilf served with distinction in WW2, being Mentioned in Despatches and awarded the Oak Leaf. He was a member of the Green Howards Association until his death and was buried with military honours.

We offer sincere condolences to his widow, Hilda, three daughters and all the family.'

A friend has written to tell us that Mary Elizabeth Lyon of Denbigh died peacefully in June. She was a very long standing member who became a Builder in 1974. She was widely known and loved and it is clear from her friend's letter that she exercised a wide influence for good.

We give thanks for their lives

PASS THE SALT

by Huw Gibbs

'You are salt to the world. And if salt becomes tasteless, how is its saltiness to be restored? It is now good for nothing, but to be thrown away and trodden underfoot.' (Matt 5, 13)

After 15 years on the staff of Toc H, I hope I might be allowed this one chance to state in what ways I sense the Movement has begun to fail the men and women of vision and courage who shaped it.

It seems to me that there are three ailments affecting Toc H. They are *disobedience, pessimism and introversion*. So far, none of our painstaking and often painful self examinations has eradicated them. In a never ending catalogue of words, statements, resolutions and plans, we have carefully avoided taking those necessary corporate acts, at Regional and National level, which, once and for all, could demonstrate what Toc H is, and, more to the point, what kind of life is expected from those who claim membership. We have, in the words of G K Chesterton, tried to assemble a saint by naming the parts. In the past decade there has not been a single large publicly recognised act in Toc H which has helped us to move forward an inch. Instead we plead that the Movement is incapable of speaking with one voice and meekly accept such a state of affairs in the name of fairmindedness. Fair thinking has become no thinking.

Surely the time is upon us when Toc H should look at the fundamental truths which gave it birth and devise ways to propagate them, untrammelled by the weak viewpoint which obstructs every act of obedience, dilutes it into pessimism and ends in navel contemplation. Our Central Council, as it is presently constituted, is a farce and quite incapable of guiding Toc H. It has not made a worthwhile contribution to the direction of Toc H for ten years.

There is in Toc H a widespread fear of results. For some it is the fear of failure that paralyses the brain and for others the fear of success and the knowledge that the Branch may have to change. The danger of this sort of pessimism is that it stagnates our moral sense, neutralises our noble indignation and crushes imaginative faith. Jesus did not ask us to go out and get results, he asked us to go out simply to witness and to be obedient.

Yes, there is a clear mission for Toc H in the 80s. It is the same as it was when

Barclay Baron wrote *Half the Battle* in 1923, — *'The secret . . . is fellowship, but not a fellowship content to dwindle and grow old as it sits round a sinking fire, but kept young with a renewed eagerness and resolve by those who fall in, faster than the tired men who fall out . . . and to what end? The most abrupt and true answer is to be given in three words which happen to contain an anagram of Toc H — To Conquer Hate. To one's elementary ignorance of another is linked misunderstanding, to misunderstanding mistrust, (which is another name for fear) and fear leads to hate, hate to conflict and conflict ends in death, of the conscience if not of the body.'*

'The aim is to strike at the furthest link in this chain of human disaster, for, the chain once broken, the prisoner is free to praise God instead of wasting breath in cursing his brother, and to save the world with gladness in place of clumsily destroying it.'

It is just about as difficult as God can make it. But it is the purpose we embrace when we sign a membership form and if we want to remain true to those obligations we must get on with it. So far, in the last ten years, we have smoke screened our way through *Strategy for the Seventies* and *Action for the Seventies* without a single attainable objective in sight. Instead of a strategy we had a paper which tinkered with the machinery. We had mistaken a racket for a revival. Yet another attempt to name the parts in the futile hope that we could build something saintly. But it won't wash. The Spirit knows it and now so do we!

Every strategy must set objectives. We constantly sidestep the issue by stating we already have our *Four Points of the Compass*. They are not objectives: they are principles. The difference is that an objective has to be attained and measured.

I once heard Antony Dignum, Head of Young & Rubicam, lecturing to IPC on planned objectives and he defined it thus. *'Generally speaking an objective should be a guide to action; suggest the course of the action; be ambitious enough to be challenging; take account of peculiarities in the area it will govern; contain within it subsidiary goals; be capable of measurement; give purpose.'* Unless we have a purpose there is no reason why anyone should co-operate with anyone else, or why anyone should try to get them to co-operate. That is the present state of

too many of our Branches. They are like flotsam, soaked with apathy and drifting aimlessly in a sea of meaningless reports, minutes and ceremonies. The nearest we have got to an understanding of real objectives is the report *The Way Forward* but even this is already being translated and mangled into another tier of so-called 'key people', who, in the thinking of one Region, my own, ought to be elected by Districts! In six months the vision has become another administrative adjustment, another part named and slotted into place. The danger we face in Toc H is allowing the finest material resident in our best people to run to waste in the pursuit of lesser aims. It is only by turning to Christ for guidance and inspiration that we will find in ourselves, and others, those spiritual resources to make life worth living. The new realisation in Toc H of its sense of mission may, if handled properly, release that 'imprisoned splendour' that society was meant to see. But we cannot do it by elections, only convictions. Jesus said *'Follow me and I will make you . . .'*

To bring this discussion down to ordinary Branch level I would say this. Any Branch which is conducting itself in such a way as to prevent a meaningful and regular encounter, through service and social activities, with others in the community is no longer Toc H. It may be doing good work but it is not Toc H. I would go further, and say that any Branch which has despaired of the job which enables all members collectively to work together in one place has torn up a cornerstone and seriously damaged the likelihood of others becoming attracted by its fellowship and trust.

I realise that all this is going to strike a familiar chord in a lot of Branches and I know most, if not all, the excuses. But the fact remains that these two objectives remain central to the aims of Toc H as described by Barclay Baron, and crucial to the improvement of our modern society which has been horribly disfigured by the ravages of greed, hate and cruelty. Like a popular advert for teabags, Toc H has got to be covered in little perforations so that the flavour can flood out. Who wants to drink stewed tea?

This sounds all very negative and discouraging but what about the other part of that statement in St Matthew's gospel? It reads — *'You are the light for all the world. A town that stands on a hill cannot be hidden. When a lamp is lit, it is not put under the meal tub, but on the*

Open Forum

Toc H in Southern Africa

Percy Bays' letter in your May issue has prompted me to write. South African members *are* doing their job. One wonders what others would do if faced with the same set of circumstances. Look at some of them.

For example:

A rapidly expanding population to feed, educate, clothe and house; with a 3% national increase per annum, 24 million people in 1980 became 24.7 million in 1981.

Twelve distinctive population groups, each with their own language, lifestyle and cultural aspirations; (Afrikaner, Cape Coloured, Cape Malay, English, Indian, Pedi, Portuguese, Sotho/Tswana, Swazi, Tsonga/Shangaan, Xhosa and Zulu).

An enormous disparity in living standards ranging from extreme poverty to abundant wealth; an unequal taxation burden that has created a corresponding unequal distribution of wealth.

The development of a sophisticated free market economy within a vast underdeveloped region with large under-utilised natural and human resources; the necessity to create immediate work opportunities for an expanding labour force has encouraged the growth of very big urban concentrations, at the cost of under-

development of the rural areas where life is most desperate.

Opinion is deeply divided as to how best the country can be justly governed.

Mischief making in neighbouring states; a serious ideological and military onslaught has been mounted against South Africa fanned by irresponsible journalism, communist propaganda and the supply of arms to expatriate South Africans.

Emotional statements which fail to address real problems are neither fair, honest or helpful. So much damage is being done by forming judgements about South Africa with no apparent obligation to defend the truth or to engage in finding real, workable solutions.

Injustice, discrimination and oppression stink and the smell is doubly offensive when you have to live with it. If Toc H has a mission in South Africa then it is to tell it like it is.

If we are a Christian movement then our members must be Christians; And if Christian, Toc H must be motivated by Christ's standard and Christ's standard alone. It matters not one whit where each one of us is in our own Christian walk. We recognise that either we are Christian and we walk with Christ according to His standard or we are not Christian and we walk with the world and unwittingly become part of

its wheeler-dealing. Can there be any half measures? Either the Main Resolution means what it says or it does not.

We are told that we have been called to be instruments of God's will. Toc H has a great future in South Africa when we can all say with St Paul *'It is no longer I who live but Christ who lives in me and the life I now live I live by faith in the Son of God who loved me and gave himself for me'*. When hands reach out with love and we understand that in the family of God there is neither black nor white, rich nor poor, learned nor ignorant, reconciliation truly begins.

Man in his natural state will always louse things up. It is doubtful whether he can ever really think fairly, love widely or build bravely when he continually falls back upon his own or others' sentiments and feelings. A life worth living must surely start with the heart and not with the head.

Because God hates injustice and the oppression of the poor, South Africa may well have to pay a high price for recent government policies. But for certain those who walk by faith are learning to understand the depths of Christ's love for men and to obey his command to love one another. To us To-c-H means to conquer hate.

Graham Ramsay
Cape Town (SA)

PASS THE SALT

continued

lamp stand, where it gives light to everyone in the house.'

The chronicle of human history is filled with evidence of the moral and spiritual influence of those whose lives have been modelled on the twin commands of Christian obedience and faith. Only the very minimum amount of salt is enough to permeate everything it is mixed with and the packet loses none of its saltiness when it is shared. Likewise it is true that the whole of society could be penetrated by the quality of the lives of a spiritual minority. It is already there to see in educational opportunities, health care and social welfare, all of which owe their origins to the outworking of Christian commitment. Those whom Jesus called 'the salt of the earth' have allowed their influence to spread throughout the world in every generation. The cost was not counted because it is everything. Men

were converted when they saw courage in the face of Jesus. He set His face to go to Jerusalem. All His paths led Him to Calvary but He never wavered. He had a resolute face. He obeyed the mandate of His mission, never went back on His vow and accepted the full consequence of His total surrender to God's will. David Livingstone, when once asked about the sacrifices he had made, replied, *'but I have made no sacrifices'*. Similarly Lord Roberts told a portrait painter, *'Don't remove the lines from my face: I won't them'*. There has to be a price for this kind of obedience and all of us pay it in one way or another, but the reward is the abundant life I tried to describe in my last article. The path towards the attainment of that objective, which is to pass love between one person and another, is filled with frustrations. But we dare not yield our spirit to defeatism and despair. To cherish a permanent sense of frustration will only paralyse our spirit. Toc H Branches, particularly those involving elderly people are, generally speaking, nervous about such encounters. *'We don't mind extension but we're not doing any door knocking: we're too old.'* It is simply another way of saying *'we are*

afraid'. It reveals the stubborn resistance of established Branches to embrace new experiences and it is no longer Toc H. My firm conviction is that, despite age, such new experiences are at the centre of the Toc H life, and they are often decisive in the sense that life is never quite the same again; something new has broken into the gloom adding a new vision of light and beauty and power. Then it becomes true Toc H.

During the past five years of my service in North Wales, three examples will suffice as illustrations of that power breaking through to create a stronger fellowship. Rhyl Branch were challenged to take local children for a summer holiday. They could not do it alone so shared the responsibility with others. Now the Branch has enrolled 14 new members and will soon abandon its all male preserve. Conwy District took up the challenge of raising £2,000 for a holiday for mentally handicapped children and discovered that Branches were collecting new members as well as money. Mid-Salop District was in danger of dropping to two Branches and losing its District status, but, after a tiring

Opinions expressed in these columns (including any editorial comment) are those of the contributor and not necessarily those of the Toc H Movement. We reserve the right to edit letters. Only letters carrying the correspondent's full name and address will be considered for publication.

The Marks

I am not often moved to write to Publications and when I have written the odd, hotly indignant letter, I've thought better of it and not posted it. But your April issue has moved me deeply and mostly because of the letter from Colin Campbell. When a man, held in high respect by so many people, feels compelled to sever nearly 50 years connection with our Movement, it is surely time to stop and consider again what we are doing. There are no easy answers but it is certain that the present expedient is not the right one. I hope that we can think again and consult again so that the high tradition and reputation of a glorious Movement cannot, even in a small degree, be called into question.

Fred Willis
Woodley, Berks

May I express sincere thanks to all those Branches who wrote to Toc H Hackney at the time of the closure and proposed sale of Mark 3. When we circulated Branches in the SE Region, stating our concern about the abrupt termination of Prideaux House's invaluable community work, we didn't dare to hope for such a supportive response. Yet over 60 Branches wrote to us, not only to share our concern but also to tell us of what action they had taken to make their

feelings known within the Movement. We were most grateful.

The end of the story, as far as Prideaux House is concerned, is quite a happy one. Although no longer run as a Toc H Mark, Prideaux House continues to fulfil its function in the local community under the able direction of the Revd Gualter de Mello, a former warden of the Mark, whose Friends' Anonymous service is widely known in the locality for its excellent network of volunteers, its 24 hour phone-in for help service, its work with the bereaved and victims of crime, its ecumenical activities and its efforts to strengthen healthy community relations between Hackney's ethnic minorities.

Mark 3 is dead – but long live Prideaux House!

Elizabeth Taylor
Hackney

... Into Action ...

Frank Field's 'Personal View' in the June issue, though a reminder of this era's community problems, still seemingly overlooks the fundamental cause of the troubles. Facilities for fair standards of living in work and leisure must emerge from individual personal relationships. That was Tubby's vision. A deep desire to promote understanding and friendship

between those of different creeds, upbringing, attitudes and experience is the only sure base upon which the provision of community needs can be established.

If, as Frank opines, Toc H is to survive, this basic fact must be in the forefront of members' thoughts and actions. The challenge to survive is to get involved with the personality of the individual from which will flow his needs to meet requirements in the right provision of work, worship and leisure facilities.

First then, to understand the personal needs of the individual through the growth of service by friendship. Secondly, to try to fulfil the requirements to give the individuals in their communities a way of life satisfying to them. In the Christian conception, to love is the personal touch expressed in fellowship and service. This was Our Lord's teaching and example in founding the community of His disciples.

Leslie Pritchard
Taunton

Staff Redundancies

I am truly astonished at the opening para of your May Editorial for here is yet another confusion for the membership to digest. Clearly, all this refers to the recent staff redundancies. Those who reacted most actively to these have not quarrelled, as you suggest, with the unpalatable decision that such redundancies are necessary – that is an easy way out when you want to save money quickly at the expense of the few and is quite another story – but with the manner in which the decisions were arrived at and carried out.

I still find it difficult to believe the apparent misunderstanding of Leadership. Leadership demands humility and integrity plus some experience and intelligence. Corrupt these qualities with conceit, arrogance and perhaps a touch of power hunger and you merge into another kind of leadership (so called) ie dictatorship. I have not used this word myself, but many have and it fits.

When an elected Executive (CEC) passes responsibility of this magnitude to a sub-Committee, which should be invited to make recommendations and to give reasons in confidence and no more, and then adopts these opinions as its decision, binding upon others, without even knowing, in the first instance, who the redundant members are, they are not leading but following their servants. I use the expression 'responsibility of such

campaign near Shrewsbury, a new Branch was formed and a nearby Branch in Market Drayton has joined forces to help a now thriving District tackle bigger and hopefully more daring commitments. In all these places it is love, shown through concern, that has attracted new people, and it is this recipe that has always been at the heart of Toc H and Tubby's vision in the Old House. What he discovered was that in the trenches, surrounded by the stench of death, only an eyeball to eyeball explanation made any sense. We have to teach the world, one person at a time, that the blind pursuit of material things is the great modern conceit and deceit. Somehow we have to prove that it doesn't matter what we have to live *with* but that it does matter what we live *for*. The means, and this includes the large fortune that Toc H still has, are not important and need not concern us unduly but the *One* for whom we live should be our greatest concern.

If Toc H today is failing to make the appeal it deserves, it is not because the idea is outmoded or old fashioned, but because we have all failed to live up to its exciting standards. It is written that 'A

civilisation dies first at its roots; it dies in the spirits of men; it dies in the death of the forces that make men creative and loyal and right and strong within.' Professor Collingwood of Oxford has written '*Civilisations die as they are born, not with waving flags or noise of machine guns in the streets, but in the dark, in the stillness, when no one is aware of it*'. This is the area in which Toc H is called to make progress. This is the reality of mission and ministry.

Progress is made by nurturing the spirit of individuals. It comes through the personal acceptance of Christ as Saviour, for the Kingdom of God is within. It begins with a total rejection of disobedience, pessimism and introversion.

St Matthew had already said all this in one sentence. Verse 16 in the 5th chapter of this Gospel is already familiar and should be the aim of every member.

Pass the salt.

Why not write to tell us what you think?

— Editor

Open Forum continued

magnitude' because it concerns fellow Toc H members, who we happen to employ, and their immediate families.

For a coterie at Wendover to assume that they can judge field staff in such a degree without any reference whatever to the local leadership, with whom they have been working for a long time, is just arrogant and quite unfair to the redundant members.

Of course, we live in times when the standards of integrity and loyalty are falling short, when half truths and misleading statements abound save where curbed by law, when to cheat the tax man is considered clever, etc, but this in no way excuses Toc H unless that is what Toc H means by 'moving with the times'.

The membership was assured of consultation on staff matters. This assurance was broken on the flimsiest of excuses. Dictators act in this way, don't they? They push aside those who question and get rid of those who disagree. To so many of our members, justice has not been seen to be done.

I knelt in the Upper Room of The Old House a fortnight ago, with friends old and new and it came upon me that our Movement had demeaned itself, become tainted and that we were less worthy than when last I was there.

Ultimately, each one of us is responsible for his/her own standards and to acquiesce in what has been happening and could equally well happen again in much the same manner, is to lower those standards and there will be those among us who are not prepared to do this. That Upper Room is no place for woolly thinking. It breathes honesty, loyalty, comradeship. It calls upon us to raise our sights as they did when they slid that left thumb along the slide — not lower them.

Peter Danmers
Exeter

What 'Third World'?

Yes, I admit it's a dreary title, nevertheless it can carry a useful meaning.

In the world of insurance the 'Third Party' is the luckless wretch who happened to be on the pavement corner when the drunk driver went off course.

Similarly the Third World is the fearsome multitude of our brother mortals who suffer lack of housing, food, health, water, the lot through no fault of their own.

What we need to ask is what sort of 'Third Party Insurance' we are giving to the world in terms of the proportion we give out of our Gross National

Product? Compared with the astronomical sums we spend every hour on armaments it is not even a flea bite.

'Third World' to me is a term which stings me into action.

Canon Hugh Potts
Gloucester

How I agree with the letter from Cowes and East Cowes Branch! (June issue). I wonder who invented this and thought it necessary to add to the list of present day queries. I wonder where I live and where my friends live. I have always used the words 'The World' and this is sufficient for me. Someone has adopted the phrase 'The Third World' to describe those poor countries where ignorance and poverty go hand in hand. We have always had these conditions, and always will in 'The World'. Let's leave it as such — no need for a new name.

Doris M Lloyd
Birmingham

Coincidence?

Following my article in your June issue, *'To whom it may concern!'*, the 'coincidences' continued.

On 3 June I received a letter from a chap who had been a junior clerk with me in our teenage + years. In 1939 he joined the Army and never returned to our old employer. I have heard little of him since the War. Apparently he recently called in a shop in Pickering where he had to wait and kill time. He saw a *Point Three* lying on the counter, picked it up, idly turning the pages and saw my article. Strangely, a customer had dropped the *Point Three* — this particular issue — by mistake. Thus I got a letter from a man I had not seen for 35 years! So there it is!

Bill Barnes
Middlesbrough

Early Blood Donors

In connection with Charles Potts' letter (May *Point Three*) regarding the early days of blood transfusion, the Reigate and Redhill Branch were responsible for setting up the service in that area. In October 1935 I was a patient in the East Surrey Hospital when one of my fellow members came to give a direct transfusion to another patient in the ward, and was I am sure responsible for saving a life. I think there were only a few such transfusions before the change in method. I was not a donor in those early days but after the war I was for a number of years until my state of health didn't provide blood of the required standard.

Don Aldridge
Wallington

Are we finished?

We are led to believe that if Toc H continues on its present course its resources will last only two or three years. Presumably with a more realistic subscription the period might be slightly increased.

Having been in the Movement for well over 40 years, one wonders if it has done its job. Now community service has spread and in addition there is the State welfare services, things unknown when we started.

Would it not be preferable to keep true to our principles and to go out with flags flying rather than trying to turn it into a business concern and calling in management consultants? Many of us owe a great deal to the fun and fellowship of our Branches but with the average age of Branch members what it is, the death of many Branches is inevitable. However, the youth groups may turn themselves into Branches if they feel the need, so should we not leave the future to them?

As the hymn writer puts it: *'We'll praise Him for all that is past And trust Him for all that's to come'*.

Ivan M Taylor
Orpington



Branches in Huddersfield District ran a stall in the town's Open Market to raise funds for their activities.

50 YEARS ago!



The August 1932 edition of *The Toc H Journal* printed a letter from the famous novelist Hugh Walpole to Bobs Ford and Harry Chappell who were just starting a momentous journey. Sir Hugh Walpole had recently joined Toc H. By that time, he was living in the Lake District and was halfway through his great Lakeland Saga of four novels (*Rogue Herries*, 1930, *Judith Paris*, 1931, *The Fortress*, 1932 and *Vanessa*, 1933).

Revd F E ('Bobs') Ford, following Toc H work in Oxford, Kandy and Manchester, had just completed a fruitful three year tour of Toc H duty in India. He decided to come home by the eastward route, visiting Toc H units in Burma, Malaya, China, Japan, Korea, Australia and New Zealand. The great problem was cost. Tubby approached his favourite tanker fleet and got an unexpectedly warm response. The fleet's manager – making his first contact with Toc H – provided introductions to his agents in every port to be visited by Bobs and shipped him as a super-cargo, as guest of the company, on each stage of the long journey. Where his own line didn't run, he arranged for other vessels to carry Bobs. Wherever Bobs went ashore, he arranged hospitality and free transport. When Tubby suggested that his own ADC, Harry Chappell, a young Cambridge graduate,

should accompany Bobs from Singapore onwards, he, too, was given the same full facilities.

When the news of this planned journey broke, Hugh Walpole wrote:

My Dear Ford and Chappell,

Although I have met only one of you, yet you will I hope allow me, very humbly, to say how greatly I envy you and how sincerely I wish you well. I have no right to push myself into the intimacy of your own friends who know you as I cannot, but I am one of the Family Party. I do believe in Toc H, and you are both doing just the romantic, adventurous thing that 20 years ago I prayed to be allowed to do myself. Your ages together do not amount to Drake's. I myself feel dreadfully old when I think of you, and yet you have thrown up – one of you a terribly well earned holiday, the other important studies – for this apparently haphazard expedition. I say haphazard only in the sense of the things that you will pick up and collect – a flock of red tailed monkeys, an island slipping along the horizon like a purple lizard, Chinese Temples and a jade river as quiet as a village Church on a Sunday morning, shops with radio sets, joss sticks and charms against premature old age, greeting a new post on an early fine morning . . . Hospitality everywhere,

insects and too talkative interruptions; kind humbug and brusque honesty; headaches, infinite boredom; sudden enchanting moments of gaiety, meeting in a moment of astonished surprise someone to whom you belong; pompous speeches; too much sententious solemnity; the wrong facetiousness; a consciousness – through crimson feathered birds, quiet sunrises, an old man in a loin cloth, a smile in the crowd – that God is not ashamed of reminding you that He is engaged steadily, with purpose, on His business in spite of what others may say . . . Forgive this long catalogue. It is my confused, romantic sense of the adventures that are coming to you.

And, of course, the greatest adventure remains – that you are building new outposts for the one thing today that has no prejudices, no class, no nation, no dogma, the one force, as I see it, that brings men together and keeps them together because men are brothers, naturally belong to one another, and were made by God to serve one another. You don't need to be told that the world is in pieces. You know this better than I. From what I hear you know men's weaknesses and yet believe in them. You do not expect miracles. You do not think yourselves miraculous. But you have a sense of humour; you welcome new things and hard things, you believe in God.

Let one who envies you from the bottom of his heart wish you all the luck!

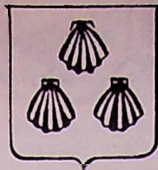
Hugh Walpole



Photo: West of England Newspapers Ltd

The elderly people living in a Bere Alston Residential Centre ran a busy open day to raise funds for Tavistock Toc H's muscular dystrophy holiday scheme. Stalls, raffles and – unusually! – a sponsored silence raised £144.

Small Ads



Small advertisements must be received (with remittance) five weeks before publication day, which is the 23rd of the preceding month. The charge is 5p a word (minimum 50p) to Point Three Magazine. Rates of display advertisements can be obtained from the Editorial Office, Toc H, 1 Forest Close, Wendover. Telephone: 0296 623911.

Toc H Wood/Asbestos Holiday Chalet at Bolingey, Perranporth. Very quiet, sleeps up to six. £30 per week. Details from: F E Whybra, Heartis, Copper Hill, Troon, Camborne, Cornwall TR14 9JW.

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